

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Ward-Monde House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 124 North Fillmore

CITY, TOWN Topeka

STATE Kansas

VICINITY OF
CODE 20

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
No. 2, Martha Keys

COUNTY Shawnee

CODE 177

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Meeting room

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Topeka

STREET & NUMBER 215 East Seventh St.

CITY, TOWN Topeka

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 66603

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registrar of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Shawnee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Topeka

STATE
Kansas 66603

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Topeka-Shawnee County Historic Survey

DATE 1974 (July)

FEDERAL STATE ☒ COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Planning Commission, Shawnee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Topeka

STATE
Kansas 66603

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☒ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ward-Meade house is located at the north edge of a residential area on the high bluff south of the Kansas river. On that prominent site it is visible for several miles, and from the house one can command a view of the fertile Kansas river valley. The large rambling house sits in a five-acre city botanical garden or park. The park is situated at the north end of Fillmore street adjacent to a deteriorating old residential neighborhood. Within the park to the west of the Ward-Meade house is a parking lot, to the south a modernistic fountain, to the east the botanical garden, and to the north the bluff.

The original 1870 residence is similar in style to many residences built in the Topeka area in the 1860's and 1870's. The main section is two stories and square with an asymmetrical plan. Its east facade has three bays with the main entrance placed at the right. The entrance is recessed with a double door and mullioned light. The truncated hipped roof over the main portion has a wooden boxed cornice, as does the low hip roof over the wing to the north. The east and south exterior walls of the house were of soft red brick laid in stretcher bond; the north and west walls were of rough cut limestone laid in irregular horizontal courses. Window openings are tall rectangles, running almost from floor to ceiling. The windows are double hung with two panes in each sash. The lintels and lugsills are of dressed limestone. Originally the cornice had brackets and there were louvered shutters on the east facade. The oldest photograph available, dating from the 1870's, shows no porches on either the east or south sides.

After the Meades moved into the house in 1898, extensive changes and additions were made. A two-story brick kitchen and bedroom addition with a low hip roof and boxed cornice was built to the west. Also, two round arched windows were placed on the second floor of the west wall of the main section. These windows are outlined in brick in the stone wall.

In 1905 the two-story classic portico with four frame Ionic columns replaced a one-story shed-roofed verandah on the east front. Ionic posts also replaced the turned wood posts of the verandah on the south wall and on the remainder of east. The large porch and columns made the previously unassuming entrance appear monumental and gave the house a greater visibility. At the same time the walls were painted white and the shutters were painted to match the window and door trim.

A small frame addition appears to have been subsequently added to the north and west, but the date is not known. The hipped roofs are now covered with red composition shingles, and the cornices have been painted brown. The white paint has been removed from the east wall but a fading coat is still on the south wall.

Since the city of Topeka purchased the property in 1961 a garden and arboretum have been planted on the surrounding five acres and a patio has been built at the east entrance. A flat-roofed one story addition of dark red brick was built to the north in 1972 to provide a meeting room for Topeka's Garden Clubs. A fountain has since been placed south of the house.

Many changes have occurred to the Ward-Meade house over the years, in a sense reflecting the changing styles that accompanied the growth and development of Topeka from a small crude settlement to a larger and more civilized community.

As a bicentennial project a local organization chartered as American Heritage, Inc., is seeking to restore the house. The exterior will be returned to its 1905-1906 appearance as much as possible, and the first floor interior will be restored as an 1870's residence. The second floor will be used for pioneer crafts rooms, featuring exhibits, demonstrations and opportunities for visitors to participate in the crafts.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
X 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Western Settlement
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1870, 1898, 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Anthony A. Ward first acquired the site of the present Ward-Meade house in June, 1854. He purchased 240 acres with three log cabins from a half-Pottawatomie named Joseph-James for \$100. In September, 1854, he moved his family to the property; that was three months before the little settlement of Topeka was established about a mile to the east. Ward is said to have been the second white farmer in Shawnee county.

Ward was a native of Ohio and later emigrated to Independence, Mo. At the time of his marriage to Mary Jane Foster in 1841, he was working at the Shawnee Methodist Mission, in what is now Fairway, Kan., as a wagonmaker. In 1849 he was caught up in the gold rush fever and started for California. He turned back in Wyoming after hearing reports of the scarcity of grass on the trail and returned to the mission. In 1851 he moved to Uniontown in Shawnee county, Kan., and then in 1854 moved a few miles east to the farm he had purchased.

Ward decided to consolidate the three log cabins since none was large enough by itself to house his family. This was the only house for some distance so strangers frequently found their way to the Wards' door. Many of the people who were prominent in settling the territory and in establishing Topeka found a warm welcome, food, and a place to sleep at the Wards'. The log house was by far the best in the area and as early as 1856 was regarded as a "mansion" by settlers in the vicinity. The floors were bare but the living room had the first wallpaper in the area.

In 1856 Ward tore off the east section, connected the other two with a brick wall, and added a smoke house, kitchen and porch. He was a successful farmer and also owned the sand rights for that part of his property which bordered the Kansas river. Sand was sold on a self-service basis for five cents a wagon load.

Construction of the brick and stone house is believed to have begun in 1870. That was a time of growth and new, more permanent construction for Topeka.

Ward didn't have long to enjoy his new house for he died in 1874. Mrs. Ward lived there until her death in 1897. The property was then bequeathed to her daughter Jennie Ward Meade.

John and Jennie Meade and their seven children moved into the house in 1898. Meade had worked for the Santa Fe railroad since coming to Kansas in 1877. He had been an assistant engineer and resident engineer for a number of divisions. At the time of his retirement in 1919 he was lauded as one of the railroad's early pioneers and builders.

The Meades found the house too small for their large family and for entertaining their many guests and friends, so the large addition was built to the west in 1898. In 1905 the porch was remodeled. The four large classic columns were reportedly shipped from Chicago; they closely resemble those of the Meade ancestral home near Winchester, Va.

John Meade died in 1924 and his wife Jennie in 1925. Their descendants continued to live in the house until the property was purchased by the city of Topeka in 1961. Parcels of the original 240 acres had been sold at various times over the years for urban development and some was taken for highway construction in the late 1950's. Only five acres remained

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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8.

with the house at the time of the city's purchase.

The city parks department has charge of the property which is also known as the Meade Park Garden Center. A 1963 city ordinance set aside the grounds for the cultivation and planting of trees, shrubs and other flowering plants. The Meade Park Garden Center Association has used the house for meeting rooms, a horticultural library and other purposes. A meeting room facility for use of the Topeka Garden Clubs was added to the north in 1972.

The city of Topeka has given its approval to the efforts of American Heritage, Inc., to repair and restore the house. Because of the mixture of architectural periods, the exterior will be restored to its appearance subsequent to the addition of the large porch. Part of the interior will be returned to its 1870's appearance, while the upstairs will be developed for pioneer crafts displays.

Through the Ward-Meade house Topekans have a link to the founding of their city. The story of the house and its occupants reflects the history, changes, and expansion of the city. The house sits in a five-acre open green space not far from the center of the Topeka urban area. Its preservation seems to be assured for future generations of Topekans.

9.

Rastall, John E., "Topeka in 1856," Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin, vol. 2, no. 1 (March, 1948) pp. 19-25. Reprinted from Kansas Magazine, February, 1873. Topeka Daily Capital, Jan. 3, 1910; Dec. 5, 1914; Feb. 23, 1919. Topeka Journal, May 27, 1905; Mar. 19, 1949; Jan. 17, Mar. 25, 1975.

Note: A preliminary nomination form, from which much of the information used in this nomination form was obtained, was prepared by Kathryn Knickmeyer of the Topeka-Shawnee County Planning Commission staff and by members of American Heritage, Inc.

MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cone, Lois Johnson, "The Ward-Meade House," Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin, vol. 3, no. 1 (March, 1949), pp. 9-13.
 "Death of Mrs. Ward," Topeka Daily Capital, Mar. 26, 1897.
 "Death of an Old Citizen," Topeka Commonwealth, Apr. 19, 1874.
 History of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), pp. 532-534, 544.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 267970 4327050
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

June 25, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

120 W. 10th

TELEPHONE

(913) 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Nyle H. Miller

TITLE

Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE